

AVAILABLE WATERSHED RESOURCES

Mississippi Watershed Resources

Center for Water and Wetlands Resources (CWWR): The CWWR is part of the University of Mississippi Field Station (UMFS) in northern MS, which often integrates research with training exercises in "hands on" field experiences for individuals of a wide range of ages. The goal of the Center, with support facilities available at the Station, is to provide the best possible aquatic/wetlands/terrestrial research and education program possible. www.baysprings.olemiss.edu

Floodplain Easements Program: The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now implementing the Floodplain Easements Program in Mississippi. The purpose of these easements is to restore, protect, maintain and enhance the functions of the floodplain; conserve natural values including fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, ground water recharge and open space; reduce long-term federal disaster assistance; and safeguard lives and property from floods, drought and the products of erosion. www.wildlifemiss.org/financial/floodplain.html

General Mississippi Water Facts and USGS Programs: This page provides a good overview of Mississippi's water resources and the USGS programs dealing with water in the state. <http://csmt.msstate.edu/html/Stride/html/mswaterfacts.html>

Gulf Restoration Network: The GRN offers a variety of information and assistance in relation to water quality and wetlands in Mississippi. The GRN conducts workshops on TMDLs, water quality standards and listing, and wetlands. It also has a Guide to Protecting Wetlands in the Gulf of Mexico, provides technical assistance on water quality and wetlands issues, and works to protect and restore the resources of the Gulf of Mexico through advocacy and outreach. www.gulfrestorationnetwork.org or contact Vicki Murillo at 1-504-525-1528.

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR): The DMR manages all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas, and provide for the balanced commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. www.dmr.state.ms.us/default.htm

Mississippi Water Quality Information: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Southern Regional Water Quality Program's site for Mississippi. Click on your county for links to agencies with local water quality information. Information on hot topics such as TMDLs, septic systems, nutrient management, and water quantity also available. <http://srwqis.tamu.edu/states/mississippi/>

Office of Pollution Control, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality: The Office of Pollution Control, as part of the Department of Environmental Quality, is the agency charged with the responsibility of enforcing federal and state laws to "...conserve the air and water and to protect, maintain and improve the quality thereof for public use." www.deq.state.ms.us

Office of Land and Water Resources, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality: The Office of Land and Water Resources is charged with the conservation, management, protection, and encouraging appropriate development of the water resources of Mississippi in the best interest and for the welfare of the people of Mississippi. www.deq.state.ms.us

Region 4 of the Environmental Protection Agency: Region 4 serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Check out this site to get in touch with Region 4's Environmental Education Specialists, use its Environmental Speakers Bureau, and learn about available environmental education grants. www.epa.gov/region4/education/index.html

Water Resources in Mississippi: Check out the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Mississippi District web page for data, reports, and other information on your local Mississippi waters. <http://ms.water.usgs.gov/>

Water Resources on National Forests in Mississippi: Learn about the USDA Forest Service's role in watershed management on National Forest Land in Mississippi. www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/mississippi/water

Water Resources Research Institute: The WRRI is part of Mississippi State University. Check out their web page for more information on their research priorities in Mississippi and the South Atlantic-Gulf region. www.wrri.msstate.edu/research.htm

General/National Watershed Resources

Adopt-A-Watershed: This site is home to the adopt-a-watershed science curriculum for K-12. It focuses on the watershed as a basis for hands-on and in the field learning for students and the community, developing partnerships and reinforcing learning through community service. www.adopt-a-watershed.org

Community Watersheds: The Center for Watershed Protection provides resource materials to help build the technical capacity of small watershed organizations through skills training and outreach/education products. www.cwp.org/Community_Watersheds.htm

ConserveOnline: This site is a "one-stop" online, public library, created and maintained by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with other conservation organizations. The library makes conservation tools, techniques, and experience available to a broad community of conservation practitioners. www.conserveonline.org/

Conservation Technology Information Center: Home to information about environmentally beneficial and economically viable management practices for agriculture, urban and other watershed stakeholders. www.ctic.purdue.edu/CTIC/CTIC.html

Earthwater Stencils: A resource for storm drain stenciling: an educational, interactive tool to engage people of all ages in community involvement for watershed pollution prevention. www.earthwater-stencils.com

EcoIQ.com is focused on environmental management, local government, and creating a sustainable future. It provides the EcoGateway. www.ecoiq.com/onlineresources

EnviroScape: Source of watershed models for teaching. Kits are available on coastal issues, groundwater, wetlands, watershed/NPS, hazardous materials, landfill, tools for schools, riparian resources. Posters, puzzles, and publications are also available for ordering. EnviroScape, c/o JT&A, inc., 14524-F Lee Road, Chantilly, VA 20151. www.envirosapes.com

Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation: The Nature Conservancy's on-line source for information about freshwater biodiversity conservation. www.freshwaters.org/

G.R.E.E.N.: Global Rivers Environmental Educational Network from Earthforce. The new GREEN website can help you make lasting improvements to your watershed by offering an online monitoring database and community action tool. Designed for monitoring groups and interested browsers alike, the site contains: a national database of locally-generated data for biological, chemical, physical, and land use information; special project pages for registered users to create customized records of their watershed monitoring and action projects; detailed Action Steps and Checklist system to lead users through a step-by-step monitoring and problem-solving process; extensive resources to support monitoring and action taking; ability for large watershed monitoring organizations to review and coordinate monitoring data from affiliated monitoring groups; and concise summaries and curricular resources for educators. www.earthforce.org/green/

Identification Key for Common Stream Bottom Macroinvertebrates: The Stream Study

(<http://wsrv.clas.virginia.edu/~sos-iwla/>) presents a catalogue and identification key of common stream bottom macroinvertebrates. It describes the kick-seine method used to determine the water quality by collecting stream-bottom macroinvertebrates from streams with rocky or gravel streambeds. It also provides practice samples to identify macroinvertebrates and determine overall water quality. The Stream Study was developed through the University of Virginia to support the Izaak Walton League Save Our Streams Program. www.iwla.org/sos

Izaak Walton League American Wetlands Campaign: The primary goal of the American Wetlands Campaign is to educate the public about wetland ecology, functions and values and to provide communities with training and resources to support their participation in wetland conservation activities.

The campaign works through several projects to raise awareness of wetland issues and provide training in wetland conservation to communities. These projects include: American Wetlands Month, a biannual conference, workshops, educational materials, and technical and networking assistance.

www.iwla.org/sos/awm

Izaak Walton League Save Our Streams Program: Save Our Streams (SOS) is a national watershed education and outreach program. The SOS program has created highly effective tools to educate volunteers how to monitor streams, stabilize streambanks and address changes in their watersheds. www.iwla.org/sos

Know Your Watershed: This site provides information on all the tools needed to start a watershed group and put together a watershed management plan to successfully implement a local, voluntary plan. It also allows you to search for watersheds by zip code, city, county or river! www.ctic.purdue.edu/KYW/

National Association of Counties-Environmental Projects: The goals of the Watershed Management Project are to build awareness of watershed management issues and provide technical assistance to counties. This project is grant-funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

www.naco.org/programs/environ/watermgt.cfm

National Watershed Coalition: The National Watershed Coalition (NWC) is a nonprofit organization made up of national, regional, state, local and tribal organizations, associations and individuals, that advocate dealing with natural resource problems and issues using the watershed as the logical planning and implementation unit. They support using total resource management principles in planning, and believe that the Small Watershed Program, authorized by PL 83-566, is one of the best planning and implementation vehicles available for sound water and land resource management. www.nacdnet.org/nwc

Natural Resources Defense Council's Clean Water & Oceans page: News and info about: Drinking Water, Water Pollution, Oceans, Water Conservation & Restoration, and the Everglades.

www.nrdc.org/water/default.asp

River Conservation Toolkits: American Rivers toolkits give you how-to documents, reports, and other resources to tackle a variety of river restoration projects. www.americanrivers.org/toolkits/default/htm

River Network: As the nation's leader in supporting grassroots river and watershed conservation groups, we have designed this site to link activists with river information, resources and services. Staff can provide trainings on a wide variety of topics including: monitoring and assessment, organizational development, and protection and restoration tools. Publications and resource library.

www.riverwatch.org/index.cfm

River Resource: River Resource provides connections for learning about rivers, and is a place to connect with other classrooms studying rivers. <http://riverresource.com/>

Stormwater, the Journal for Surface Water Quality Professionals: Information on NPDES Phase II compliance, TMDLs, and many other issues related to surface water quality. www.forester.net/sw.html

Stormwater Strategies: Community Responses to Runoff Pollution: This May 1999 report from the Natural Resources Defense Council documents some of the most effective strategies being employed by communities around the country to control urban runoff pollution, which is among the top sources of water contamination in the country today. The collection of 100 case studies compiled and evaluated here is intended to serve as a guide for local decisionmakers, municipal officials, and environmental activists; it is also a resource for citizens concerned about the quality of their local environment. Added in October 2001 is a new chapter on low-impact development, which has emerged as a simple, effective and economical stormwater strategy that also carries a broader aesthetic appeal. www.nrdc.org/water/pollution/storm/stoinx.asp

Surf Your Watershed: This interactive site allows you to look at all sorts of information on watersheds throughout the United States. www.epa.gov/surf

United States Environmental Protection Agency:

Gulf of Mexico Program: www.epa.gov/gmpo

Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW): www.epa.gov/OWOW/

OWOW (publications): <http://yosemite.epa.gov/water/owrcatalog.nsf/>

Office of Wastewater Management: www.epa.gov/OWM/

Office of Water: www.epa.gov/OW/

Year of Clean Water: www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater/

U.S. EPA Watershed Academy: This program is an academy for watershed managers, focusing and based on local, states, tribal and federal experiences. www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/

Water Environment Federation: Information on public education, programs, products, and legislation. www.wef.org/publicinfo/FactSheets/protectwatershed.jhtml

Water Environment Research Foundation: WERF works on water quality issues, focusing on four major points: Collection and Treatment Systems, Human Health and Environmental Effects, Watershed Management and Residuals Management. www.werf.org/

Water Science for Schools: Information on many aspects of water, along with pictures, data, and maps from the US Geological Survey. <http://wwwga.usgs.gov/edu>

The Watercourse: a non-profit educational publisher. <https://projectwet.org/watercourse/catalog.asp>

Waterkeeper Alliance: The Waterkeeper Alliance can help you start a local Waterkeeper program. It can provide you with important technical and legal water protection tools, national and international visibility, and connections with other water protection advocates, necessary to ensure vigilant protection of your water body. The benefits include: support with legal, scientific, fundraising and communication tools; enhanced name recognition and a share in our reputation for aggressive water protection; representation on national environmental issues common to all Waterkeeper programs; a variety of forums to share strategies and experience with our active network of Waterkeepers around the globe; and access to Waterkeeper Alliance's members-only website, electronic resources and private message boards and listserv. www.waterkeeper.org/mainprogram.aspx

Watershed Education Committee: The WEC provides a diverse forum for teachers, scientists and educators interested in watershed issues, to exchange educational and scientific information. The group works with groups such as boater's, farmers and business's, to address a wide range of issues including; agricultural runoff,

oil spills, urban runoff and wetland deterioration and restoration. www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Educate/ed-wec.html

Watershed Information Network: Roadmap to information and services for protecting and restoring water resources. Find answers to the following questions: What is a watershed?; What is my watershed address?; What is the health of my watershed?; What data and maps are available?; How can I get involved in my watershed?; How do I start a watershed team?; Who's talking about my watershed?; What financial, technical, and hands-on assistance is available?; What training is available?; Who can I contact?; What are the basic laws related to water? www.epa.gov/win

Watershed Initiatives: This group develops public education workshops, facilitates public meetings and mediates among stakeholder interest groups struggling with difficult natural resource issues. They also provide project management for watershed restoration projects. www.watersheds.com

Watershed Science Institute: Part of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture. WSI works to "incorporate ecological principles into natural resource conservation and accelerate the development and transfer of appropriate technology in response to comprehensive watershed needs and environmental sustainability at the watershed and landscape scales." www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/watershed/

Watershed-The System: This is a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based watershed management information system designed for community-based organizations dealing with soil, water, and habitat conservation. www.watershedthesystem.com

Wetlands Interactive Mapper Tool from the National Wetlands Inventory: The Wetlands Interactive Mapper displays national coverage of spatial themes, including wetlands data, high resolution hydrology and transportation, and US Fish and Wildlife refuges. What you can do with the Interactive Mapper Tool:

- Zoom into an area by county, city, zip code, Refuge, or Lat/Long query.
- View wetlands for areas of various sizes by zooming in and out and by re-centering the map.
- Saving the image for later inclusion into presentations or for printing.

http://wetlands.fws.gov/mapper_tool.htm

Other Watershed Resources

Agua Pura: A Leadership Institute Planning Manual for Latino Communities: a manual for planning a workshop for leaders in Latino communities that want to promote involvement of Latino youth in water stewardship projects. www.uwex.edu/erc/pdf/AguaPuraComplete.pdf

Educating Young People About Water: materials to help develop a community-based, youth water education program that targets youth and links key community members in partnerships, all working toward common water education goals. Materials help you to choose appropriate water curricula, plan and evaluate a water education program in relation to a local water issue, work in partnership with local experts, and improve youth's ability to manage and protect water. www.uwex.edu/erc/ey paw

Give Water a Hand: With Give Water A Hand, young people team up with educators, natural resource experts and committed community members to study water issues and take ACTION! www.uwex.edu/erc/gwah/

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts: MAWD represents 44 different watershed districts in Minnesota, all working together in water protection and management. www.mnwatershed.org

Minnesota Lakes Association: The MLA is a non-profit organization that sponsors statewide educational conferences and networking events for it's members, bringing together individuals, associations, businesses,

and government officials. MLA works closely with Minnesota legislators to keep them informed of lake related issues that affect everyone. <http://mnlakes.org/>

The Watershed Action site: offers one-stop help in planning and organizing service-learning projects to prevent water pollution in your watershed. Within this site you can access everything from scientific background information or curricula, to local experts or stencils for painting storm drain signs. Specific to Minnesota, but there is a lot of good information that could be applied anywhere.

- *Action Preparation*: Identify your watershed. Research community needs. Write a detailed plan for your project.
- *Service-Learning Projects*: Browse descriptions of popular water pollution prevention projects. For each project get step-by-step instructions, and link to curricula, equipment, background fact sheets, and organizations.
- *Background Information*: Read or download fact sheets that explain the science behind water pollution prevention projects. There are a few simple things everyone can do to protect water quality. We need students to help carry these messages to the public.
- *Resources & More*: Identify and order low cost curricula, videos, exhibits, and more. Download Assessment Tasks that meet Minnesota's High Graduation Standards. Link to organizations for equipment, funding, and professional assistance.

<http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed/action/index.htm>

The WaterShed Partners: The WaterShed Partners is an informal association of organizations in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN committed to addressing shared goals pertaining to watershed education. Because of where they are based, their expertise is focused around the Mississippi River and the metro streams that flow into it. However, much of that knowledge can be used in any watershed or it can help steer you in the right direction to find the exact answers to your questions. <http://cgee.hamline.edu/watershed>

Watershed Science Centre: WSC is an inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional alliance focusing on watershed ecosystem management, health, protection and rehabilitation. www.trentu.ca/wsc

The Watershed Stewards Project: Under AmeriCorps, WSP is committed to conserving, restoring, and sustaining natural habitats for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices. www.northcoast.com/~fishhelp

What is a Watershed?: Information, questions and links. www.amesti.santacruz.k12.ca.us/watershed.html

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) Resources

The Clean Water Act: An Owner's Manual. River Network. 1999. www.rivernetwork.org

Tracking TMDLs: A Field Guide for Evaluating Proposed Watershed Restoration Plans. River Network. 2002. www.rivernetwork.org

The Ripple Effect: How to make waves in the turbulent world of watershed cleanup plans. Clean Water Network. 2001. www.cwn.org

U.S. EPA TMDL website: www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/

This list was compiled by the Gulf Restoration Network on behalf of the South Mississippi Environmental & Agricultural Coordination Organization (SMEACO) for distribution at the 2nd Annual South Mississippi Watershed Forum Roundtable and Watershed Fair and subsequent events. For additions or corrections, please contact Vicki Murillo at 504-525-1528 x 204 or vicki@gulfrestorationnetwork.org.